G3ZME G6ZME

TDARS News Letter

TELFORD AND DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

www.TDARS.org.uk FOUNDED 1969 www.TelfordHamfest.co.uk

Issue 252 June 2012

Programme

June 13 "Summits on the Air" (SOTA) Guest speakers G8XYJ, G4OYX and others

June 17-18 50 MHz Trophy from Long Mynd. 14:00 to 14:00 Contact Simon G0UFE
Contact Simon ASAP to offer support.. G3Z is the Callsign in use
June 20 VHF NFD and other portable Planning meeting, including Guernsey trip.

June 22-27 GP3ZME/P expedition on Guernsey IN89QK. Contact Martyn G3UKV

June 27 Second 2 m walking DF hunt in LW. Start HQ 7:30pm. Martin 2E0TRO fox

July 4 Committee meeting and station GX3ZME on the Air

July 7-8 VHF NFD from Long Mynd . Meet up usual site from 10:15am Saturday

July 11 Third 2m walking DF hunt in LW. Start 7:30pm LWVH. Fox G8UGL

July 18 NFD and DxPedition: sharing the outcomes (and what went wrong !)

July 25 Celebration BBQ at LW Village Field (or nearby cover if wet). G0EYX
July 28 (Sat.) Visit to Wooferton Radio Station (near Ludlow). Contact Rob M0TOY

August 1 Committee Meeting & GX3ZME on the air.

August 8 Club Equipment Show-time. Also discussion on spending <£1000 from winnings of National Club of the Year 2011 Award.
August 11-12 GB3WPB (William Penny Brookes) Special Event Stn—Much Wenlock
August 15 "Solar Storms" Video recorded earlier this year.

August 22 Telford HamFest Preparation night. All hands on deck, please...
August 29 Final 2m walking DF hunt in LW. Start 7:30pm Village Hall. Fox G8UGL

For Amateur Radio Exam Training—enquiries to Mike G3JKX (01952 299677)
For Morse Training and Morse Proficiency Tests Martyn G3UKV or Eric M0KZB.
For Equipment Loans & Returns contact Ricky M0RKY or Simon 2E0CHV

Radio Amateur Exams: Latest News: www.tdars.org.uk/html/trainingFoundation.html

Editorial

Last Newsletter early in April, we were reflecting on the success of being chosen as the RSGB Regional Award winner of the Club of the Year 2011. Well, as everyone now knows, a group of Members went to the RSGB AGM in Bedford**,** and came back with the National Winners accolade. It was a fantastic moment as Dave Wilson, the RSGB President announced the results in reverse order, and as the runner-up was announced (Milton Keynes ARC), we realised that the winner could only be Telford & DARS. It was also a very ironic moment as I shook hands with Mark Francis of Waters & Stanton Co (who sponsors the award and provides the cash) as they have withdrawn from several mobile rallies and hamfests this year, including our own. We have been assured that their withdrawal has been entirely on business / financial grounds, but it was still a rather bitter-sweet moment .

Photo: Giles Read RSGB.

However, who can tell what the future may bring ? Other HamFest bookings have continued to trickle in, with no indication that overall bookings will be any different from recent years. From my own observations, there is usually a 20% turnover of traders—in other words, a fifth of traders go out of business, or do not attend in subsequent years, but there are always a similar number of new traders to take their place. Hopefully, 2012 will follow a similar pattern. It really is a great opportunity for Members to plug our event in September, whenever you make a purchase from a company ("You **are** coming to the Telford Rally, aren't you?") or speak to one of their staff for whatever reason. Our celebration 'binge' is on July 25 in the LW Village Field area.

MIV

TDARS MEETINGS EVERY WEDNESDAY AT LITTLE WENLOCK VILLAGE HALL UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE ON THE FRONT PAGE PROGRAMME. ROOM BOOKED FROM 7PM - 10PM. MEETINGS USUALLY COMMENCE AT 8PM

TDARS Terriers meet from 6:30 pm

Please return borrowed equipment promptly

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TELFORD & DISTRICT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN: Derek Southey G0EYX (01785 604904)

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Martyn Vincent (01952 255416)
SECRETARY: Mike Street G3JKX (01952 299677)
TREASURER: Jim Wakenell G8UGL (01952 684173)
CURATOR : Ricky Brown M0RKY (01952 411793 or 07947 351980)
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Martyn Vincent G3UKV (01952 255416)
PUBLICITY : Dave G0CER (01630 638699 or 07971 416940, leave msg)
Committee: Richard G0VXG; Simon G0UFE; Eric M0KZB; Martin 2E0TRO; Rob M0TOY; Peter 2E0ZSU; Trophies/Certs: G3UKV & M1RKH. QSL Manager David M0PNN; Assist. Curator: Simon 2E0CHV (01588 674918)

Qtc: News & Information

Annual Subs. A number of regular Members have not yet renewed their subs to TDARS for 2012-13.—please note the **current** rates are £28, or £22 non-earners, £14 full time students. As usual, Jim holds the collection box. Cash, or cheques payable to TDARS ASAP, please.

And here's a couple of pictures of the Crystal Ware ***Club of the Year 2011*** Trophy as well as the accompanying Certificate signed by Dave Wilson M0OBW, RSGB President..
We'll forgive them mis-naming our Society (Telford ARS) - even though double-checking the application paper-work, it is Telford **and District** ARS in every instance. God bless 'em.

The newly formed ***TDARS Terriers*** (beginners' section) led by Ricky M0RKY has been going for several weeks, and deserves the support of the membership in a practical way. It meets from 6:30pm each Wednesday.

If you know of any prospective youngster (or not-quite-so-young) recruit who may be interested in joining the group, could you bring them along, as Eric (M0KZB) has done for his grand-daughter? The various activities can be viewed on the TDARS Website (currently at the top right-hand edge of the TDARS home page.) They excelled at a recent DF hunt, when their small team was the first to find Martin 2E0TRO, who was the hidden fox that particular evening.

G3Z Special Contest Call has its next airing very shortly from the Long Mynd near Church Stretton, with Simon and supporters using the call for the 24 hour 50MHz Trophy (June 16-17) contest. They propose to set up from 10:30am, and the contest starts at 14:00 UTC. Simon G0UFE has ***appealed for more helpers and operators***—the more the merrier. There's lots more opportunities all year for Members to have-a-go. For example, July 14-15th the IARU all-bands / all modes HF, July 28-29th Islands on the Air (IOTA—a very popular event world-wide) and the WAE (Worked All Europe) DX SSB contest on August 11-12th. Simply contact Martyn G3UKV if you want to 'have-a-go' using G3Z; You may help the club to retain the Special Callsign next year when it's due for renewal (or otherwise!)

During a regular Wednesday evening visual presentation in April, the ***Club's SONY projector*** started to display strange feathery features on the screen in the bottom R/H corner. As the presentation progressed, the purplish patterns grew. Apparently there is a triple LCD screen within the projector, which seems to be the source of the unwanted lines. The projector was looked at after the event, but the problem had not gone away. Checking the paperwork, the 3 year guarantee had expired by JUST ONE WEEK—typical! Contact was made with the supplier ("buyitdirect.co.uk" of Huddersfield HD2 1UA), but they weren't interested. [Noting the name and boycotting them would seem to be appropriate.] The committee discussed the matter at two separate meetings, but then a stroke of luck appeared on e-bay in the form of an identical machine, with just 12 minutes for the auction to finish. Well after a few panic phone calls, the item was won for the princely sum of just £45.10, and even better, collected the next day from Shrewsbury. It's complete, working, and just 5 months older than the original. So, sometimes, a dark cloud has a silver lining. The Club paid nearly £600 for the original projector in April 2009, using 'grass roots' lottery funding from the local Council.

The TDARS website has been transferred to a new provider. A changeover had been planned by Don to take place in the next few months, but one morning in May, the website suddenly went AWOL. Within several hectic hours, with the invaluable help of Vaughan M0VRR (our RSGB Regional Manager, if you recall...) the whole mass of content was transferred to a new Provider recommended by Vaughan. Rob, M0TOY was also in attendance, with a view to providing a second, back-up TDARS Member's availability and knowledge of the workings of this excellent Club facility. Congratulations and thanks to all those involved. It's still **www.tdars.org.uk**.

At our ***Hamfest*** (September 2nd) we are once again having a ***guest speaker***. This year it is ***Stuart Wisher G8CYW*** who lives near Durham. He has become a guru for his expertise in Light Communication. (eg See RadCom May and June editions). Perhaps we can video-record his presentation so that members (all busy running the event, of course....) can at least see and hear what Stuart's demonstration was all about at a subsequent TDARS meeting. Several members are building a "Beginners' Light Communication kit" designed by Bernie G4HJW of Cambridge when it is released at the Finningley Microwave Round-table in July. It's based around modulating red light with audio, and you don't even need an OfCOM licence to operate up there. Distances of almost 120km (usually, but not exclusively, line-of-sight), have already been achieved with similar equipment. I feel a club Winter project coming along here .....

The first of this year's ***Walking DF Hunt*** took place in May, with no less than 8 teams seeking the elusive fox (Martin 2E0TRO). Most teams got within 200 yards or so of the target, with Martin taunting his hunters with 2m comments ('nasty cough you've got there' and 'I can hear voices nearby'). The four new offset-oscillator modules and collapsible 3 element yagis are now functioning (thanks Derek and Richard), and the winners were the TDARS Terriers, led by Richy M0RKY. Martin was concealed in dense undergrowth alongside a bridle path, just a short distance from the start. He lay down and covered himself with a Arab Shemagh scarf, like the type of scarf the SAS use. Some of us did not show much sympathy when his knees groaned as he tried to stand up after a longish spell hidden from sight. The dates for the remaining 2 metre DF hunts are **June 22, July 25 and August 29th**. All you need is a 2 metre handheld receiver to go with the club's antenna and adaptor unit. Why not make a small team up and have a go next time ?

A ***new TDARS Banner*** to display at open air and public events has been commissioned. This will include the Club name and logo, of course, but also the RSGB logo with "National Club of the Year 2011" in bold print. Should be quite eye-catching.

Contact with a local clothing company to provide ***TDARS sweatshirts, tee shirts etc***. has been less than satisfactory, so it has been decided to try out a supplier of such items who has booked to come to our HamFest in September. It's run by Peter Hall, and he trades as P R Hall Embroidery (google this for range on offer). You can select the quality/price to suit your pocket, and (in theory at least !) Peter has our TDARS logo on file. Just mention G3UKV and e-mails ! He will produce them on the day, or you can order in advance and collect at our event.

As mentioned previously, G3ZME/P has swept the board for the *2011 Microwave Cumulative Contests* on all 3 uWave bands (5.7, 10 and 24 GHz) on offer. A record! Here's Jim G8UGL, Mike G4NKC and Dave G8VZT collecting the Trophies at Martlesham (Suffolk) in April:-

Photos G8VZT

International Marconi Day 2012 By Simon 2E0CHV

After what felt like weeks of planning and promoting the event to members of TDARS, the time had finally arrived to head off to Tywyn for the 2012 International Marconi Day. As I drove to Tywyn, several thoughts crossed my mind…. Will the weather be better than last year? Will the equipment work? Will members of TDARS turn up? Perhaps most importantly of all, will the cows have been removed from the site? I hate cows!

There was no need for me to worry, by the time I reached Aberdyfi, the grey skies had been replaced by blue and the weather for the majority of the weekend remained fair, if a little chilly at times. Neither did I need to worry about members turning up, by mid afternoon on Friday 20th April, the following members had arrived on site: M0YDH, 2E0CLR, G8VZT, M0TOY, M6SHI, M0PNN, M0RKY, Sarah and yours truly. And the site was infested with friendly sheep, but none of those unfriendly cows I was worried about!

The remainder of the afternoon was spent setting up the GB8MD station, which once again consisted of three stations: a) doublet and club hf set mainly for 80 metres, b) Paul M0PNN supplied his new tilt over mast and rotatable v beam for 40 metres and c) Rob M0TOY supplied his tri band beam for 20, 15 and 10 metres. Simon M6SHI, had also brought along his military Land Rover as a back up station and the mast on the back of the vehicle proved very useful.

I am not sure what it is about my visits to Tywyn, but they are not without incident and this year was no exception! John 2E0CLR had a very lucky escape when a scaffold mast came crashing to the ground, as we were trying to hoist it into position. The mast grazed the side of John's head, but it could have been so much worse! We had a similar problem with Paul M0PNN's new tilt over mast, which came crashing down as the binding on the steel hawser gave way. Once again, John 2E0CLR was in the vicinity, maybe he is the 'Jonah' of TDARS portable operations?

Eventually, everything was ready and the crew relaxed, looking forward to the big day itself. Finally it was 00:01 GMT on Saturday 21st April and International Marconi Day had begun. John 2E0CLR and I started calling on 80 metres and soon had a few QSO's completed, including with Norman of GB25IMD, who is founder of IMD. After a few hours sleep, I realised I was the only person awake so decided to try my luck on 40 metres. After a quick listen around, 40 metres appeared in good shape, so I picked a frequency of 7.171MHz and began calling cq. My call was immediately answered, but little did I know just how busy 40 metres would be!

Throughout the day, more club members and guests turned up, including 2E0ZSU, G1GZZ, G0ASP, 2E0MHU, G1MHU, 2E0DTB, M6AAD, M0KZB and G7TQT. It was a real pleasure to see so many people in attendance and it really helped to keep all three stations running for the majority of the day. Paul M0PNN, Norman G0ASP and John 2E0CLR spent hours working the pile up on 40 metres with consummate ease and professionalism. In fact 40 metres must have been in great shape, as Martyn G3UKV posted on the TDARS reflector: 'GB8MD still S9++ on 7.171MHz even now at 21:50. Paul sounding very hoarse'.

Rob M0PNN was having an enjoyable time on the 20 metre station, using the beam and was joined for some CW action by Peter 2E0ZSU, Paul M0PNN and the master of such matters Eric M0KZB. Mr Marconi would have been smiling down on us, to hear morse alive and well in the TDARS ranks!

My own personal highlight was using the club doublet on 21MHz, my first CQ call being answered by JA1BPA in Tokyo, my very first JA QSO.

The other highlight of the day was receiving a telephone call from Simon G0UFE late Saturday afternoon, telling me that TDARS had been named ***RSGB National Club of the Year!*** News of our success soon spread throughout GB8MD and we congratulated G0UFE in person on 7MHz as he made his way home from the AGM.
The three stations were kept busy all day and our final QSO tally was as follows:

3.5 MHZ = 77, 7 MHz = 681, 14 MHz = 89, 18 MHz = 65, 21 MHz = 43
A grand total of **955 QSOs**!

The 24 hours were great fun and it was so gratifying to see such a fabulous turnout of club members and guests, thank you to all who attended or helped in any way to make the event a success.
The date for next years International Marconi Day has been announced as Saturday 20th April 2013. So don't be surprised when early next year I start looking for volunteers!
I would like to leave the final word to Peter, 2E0ZSU who posted the following on the TDARS reflector regarding IMD and National Club of the Year:
'Dear all – CONGRATULATIONS EVERYONE! Two spectacular days rolled into one outstanding day yesterday'

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MORSE PICTURE COMPETITION—Sent by Eric M0KZB. (Entries to Eric please)

On the wall in the background is ***most*** of an inscription in Morse.
Can you :-
1. Work out what the message is (you don't need to know Morse; just copy it from a Morse script)?
2. Work out (that should keep you fit) where it is, nearest town or city ?
Three clues :-
(1) Nautical.
(2) You may need to insert P E R M I S.
(3) There is a hidden dot behind the middle lamp post.

>>>>***continued next page***>>>>

Entry conditions.
This is only open to ***NON Morse qualified operatives..***
In the spirit of fairness if you already know this area, (i.e. your aunty lives next door or you pass it on a regular basis), please sit back and let the less informed have a go.

PRIZE (*first correct answer*).
FISTS CW course / training package (worth £3.50).

Please send correct answer to e.arkinstall@virgin.net (include full name, address and call-sign).
73 Eric 'KZB

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Lions Day on Wheels—an invite from John 2E0CLR

Sunday 8th July is Lions Day on Wheels and I would like to invite any members not involved in VHF Field Day to come along and give a hand/support the stand that I am putting on for the Lions Day on Wheels event being held by the Telford Lions in the Bowring Recreation Ground in Wellington. I hope that it will be a useful event on two fronts; firstly as a recruitment event for TDARS, and also to let people know that we exist.

To date, the plan is to have Martin 2E0TRO doing a CW demonstration, not on the air but in the style of "This is your name in morse code, now you have a go", to have a radio working the second TDARS club call sign G6ZME/P (G3ZME will be in use from the Long Mynd for NFD), working HF and maybe 2m as well, and a frontage-person to talk to the public who may be interested in finding out what the 'aerial' is for etc. Leaflets from the RSGB have been promised as take away material.

If you are interested and can spare an hour or two - especially during setting-up or putting- away, it would be very gratefully received, as would any help in the form of advice that you may have. I have never done anything like this before, but I do have enthusiasm for it, so advice will not be refused.

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Water, water, everywhere

Matching up... The Gallery of Rogues .

TDARS

Mini-Olympics 30th May 2012. More pictures on the website version of The Newsletter

Precision throwing...

New NASA project?

Hercules unchained ...

TDARS Terriers.

Recently, I sent out an e-mail asking if any member would share their experience of **"*How I got into Amateur Radio*".**

I have had a couple more responses.....**The first from Carl**...

"A little input" – from Carl Roberts M0ZCR

On Dec 17th I passed my foundation licence with Mike 'JKX (and joined TDARS around Feb time);

Then on March 10th I passed my Intermediate with Mike;

I sat the Advanced licence exam on May 31st, and today have been successful in obtaining my full callsign from the OfCOM website.

Pretty much five months from not being licensed at all to full licence (M6CRZ to 2E0ZCR to M0ZCR)

I have to add, a big 'thank you' is due to Mike Street and Richy Brown (and everyone else involved), for giving up their own time and dedicating it to the training, and to me it is very clear why TDARS won National Club of the Year with members who have been nothing but welcoming and helpful over the past few months.

Thanks to the club and training team; see you all Wednesday Carl Roberts M0ZCR

And from Peter 2E0ZSU ...

I shall give some thought to a 'very' brief article about how I came to be involved in Amateur Radio.
My only claims to fame as both an amateur and an ex professional are that I still have a full maritime operating licence - a throw back to my time with the brown jobs (when I took up the offer to become a skipper on several assorted sizes of sailing vessels, belonging to the army and culminating in helping train entrants for the Whitbread Round the World race). This in turn allowed me to maintain radio contact from HMSTYC Adventurer during these sessions, using the running backstays as a fully directional sloping V antenna with Gosport (R.Sigs HQ).
I would certainly recommend anyone taking up either or both of these hobbies - if only for the almost perfect lift that one gets working QSOs afloat. At the time I was serving - Health & Safety almost scuppered our intentions, by making it extraordinarily expensive to race our sailing crafts - until the wit of man came up with the fact that we were - after all? - only sailing FAST - in company!
Additionally there cannot be too many Intermediate CSS - who have used Bromure Radio Frequency Jammers with a normal TX output at 1.5kW...! Beats the heck out of the 50W Intermediate licence limit currently in force, but doesn't take away any of the fun of working QRP and CW.
I think that I will always be a firm SWL (even though I have strayed into two way comms on the 2m VHF Band of late. Now I am fast realising that I am having loads of fun mantling and dismantling communications kit for spares and repair (with the occasional bang when my very limited radio theory gets it wrong)! I may just stay in this area as well.

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THANKS to Simon 2E0CHV, Dave G8VZT, John 2E0CLR, Bob M0RJS, Rob M0TOY, Carl M0ZCR, Eric M0KZB for Newsletter input.
Next publication: August 2012. Input in any format always welcome !

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Little Wenlock Mini-Olympics: The Village Field, 30th May 2012:
The home of TDARS champions